

Washoe Lake State Park

Washoe County



Washoe Lake State Park was established in 1977 to preserve a portion of scenic Washoe Valley for future generations to enjoy. This Park takes its name from its original inhabitants, the Washoe Tribe, whose families have occupied the region for thousands of years.

In 1859, Mormon settlers established a permanent settlement near Franktown, west of Washoe Lake. The Ophir Mill was built on Washoe Lake's west shore and was reached by an elevated causeway across the then Washoe Marsh. Washoe Valley saw other supply towns such as Washoe City, Ophir, and Lakeview spring up in response to the mining activity nearby. By the late 1870s, the mining boom was over and the towns around Washoe Lake were all but abandoned. Those who remained behind turned to ranching and farming, gradually displacing the Washoe Indians from the Valley.

This Park offers the opportunity for nature study and bird watching in the wetland areas. Two large campgrounds provide a convenient stop for modern travelers.

For more information on this State Park, please visit:

<http://parks.nv.gov/parks/washoe-lake-state-park/>

